

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 6, 9-13, 17-18, 21-25 and 28-35 remain pending in this application.

Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims have been added.

**35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103**

Claims 1, 2, 25, 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0152339) in view of McGovern et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0097260). Claims 6 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of McGovern et al, as applied to claims 1, 2, 25 and 33-35, and further in view of Brewer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,163). Claims 9-12 and 29-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of McGovern et al, as applied to claims 1, 2, 25 and 33-35, and further in view of Achiwa et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0009438). Claims 13, 14, 17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoogterp (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0210218) in view of Yamamoto and further in view of McGovern et al. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoogterp in view of Yamamoto and McGovern et al, as applied to claims 13, 14, 17 and 24, and further in view of Brewer et al. Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoogterp in view of

Yamamoto and McGovern et al, as applied to claims 13, 14, 17 and 24, and further in view of Achiwa et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

The claims have been amended to clarify that the file system protect request is directed to a particular file system with a specified period of time such that the particular file system is protected for that specified period of time. In other words, according to the present invention, the status of a file system, namely whether it is protected or not, is determined by a file system protect request. Therefore, a particular file system can have its status changed from not being protected to being protected based upon the file system protect request. Once the specified period of time has expired, the file system will then no longer be protected and data stored therein can be modified or deleted.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Yamamoto does not explicitly recite a protect request directed to a logical volume with a specified period of time or that the entries include a first status indicating a retention period for the particular logical volume. The Examiner relies upon McGovern et al for curing this deficiency. However, McGovern et al do not disclose protecting a file system for a specified period of time using a file system protect request as presently claimed. Instead, McGovern et al disclose that a WORM volume is initially created by an administrator and then is made available to NFS or CIFS clients (see Fig. 3 and [0068] and [0071]. Therefore, McGovern et al disclose a container for the WORM function.

In order to distinguish the present invention from McGovern et al, the claims have been amended to recite that it is the file system that can be protected based upon a file system protect request. The file system is not a container for the WORM function but instead is a WORM object itself. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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